



Squirrel Class - Autumn Term 1

WELCOME BACK!



We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are now ready for a new year group, term and of course topic. Thank you all so much for the lovely gifts and cards we received at the end of the Summer Term - we all felt very spoilt!

A special welcome to Lucas who has joined Year 1. I am sure with lots of lovely, kind friends in Squirrel Class, he will settle in quickly.

And of course, a warm welcome to our new YR children. They start on Thursday and will gradually start to stay full time. I will initially be spending time each morning settling the new children into class. Please remember you can pass any brief message to any members of the team. We do ask that longer conversations happen at the end of the day to ensure we can support the children as they settle into a task as they arrive. Thank you.

The topic will start in the second week of term, when we will use our super-senses to try and locate the Superheroes hiding in our school grounds.

Through the 'develop stage' of the topic the children will:

- explore heroes and villains and link this to their own sense of right and wrong
- take photographs of their superhero friends, load and print
- explore line drawing, 'Super-selfies' and Superheroes, looking at features and scale
- learn about Super food and how it helps your body
- design and make a 'super- soup'
- learn about real life Superheroes and how we can stay 'super safe'
- find out about heroes from the past - Amelia Earhart
- write comic strips, speech bubbles, information and poetry

The **Innovate** challenge will take place during the final two weeks. At this point the Super Squirrels will face a variety of challenges over a week using the skills and knowledge they have developed over the term. To finish the topic the children will have a Superhero Day where the children can wear a costume and take part in some physical challenges before taking part in a hero ceremony with their friends. This will be on **Wednesday 23rd October**. The costume can be home-made or bought - but they must be able to move in it and should wear either trainers or their school shoes.

Our Author this term is Paul Bright, who has written a great Superhero book: Charlie's Superhero Underpants! He has also written: Fidgety Fish and Friends, I'm Not Going Out There, What's More Scary than a Shark? , Nobody Laughs at a Lion, The Bears in the Bed and the Great Big Storm, Quiet, Under the Bed, Crunch Munch Dinosaur Lunch, The Hole Story.

If you do have any of these books to loan us, please remember your child's name on the inside. Please do not send in library books.

We are also having an author visit from Lucy Griffiths. She is coming to work with the children in Year 1 and 2 on the 1st October. We will use her book the Snowman and The Swallow as our focus for the week.

The homework task (for Year 1 and 2 only), this half term is linked to real life heroes. We would like each child to think of a hero from the community (police/nurse/doctor/fire fighter/lifeguard etc) and learn some simple facts about them to **talk about** in a small group. They need to know what makes them a hero and some simple facts about the job they do. The children can have a photo or drawing to accompany their talk if they wish. We do not want any facts written down as this is a piece of talking homework. The children need to practice 'talking' loudly and clearly about their hero.

HOMEWORK READY FOR week beginning 14th October.



Reading

As always we ask that you support your child with reading the books we send home and please sign in the record book. Do ensure that books other than those in their bags are shared and read - we do not want children to think they can only read 'school' books! Please be aware that children in Year 1 and 2 are part of group reading sessions. We keep our notes and comments in a separate file and do not write these into their home record books.

Reading books will be changed on a Monday morning and Friday afternoon for all children.

YR will initially bring picture books to share at home before we start on our phonic books.

Spellings: Y1/2

Each half term the children will be given a list of age appropriate spellings. They will be taught on a Monday and tested every Friday morning. They will be tested on the spelling for that week and the spellings from the prior week/s. By the end of the half term they will be tested on all spellings sent home. There will be opportunity to practice spellings in school too. We will start spellings on Monday 16th September.

P.E. day:

- **Y1/2: GYMNASTICS** on a Monday afternoon and **Games** on Wednesday afternoon

Cooking and £2 contribution: ALL CHILDREN (YR,1 AND 2)

To help cover the cost of our healthy super-food cooking sessions, a voluntary contribution of £2 per child would be most appreciated. Please send in a sealed envelope marked Cooking Contribution - Squirrel Class. The children will be consuming all that they make! Thank you.

A fantastic topic to start the year - let's home for some 'super-weather' to ease us into autumn!
Kind Regards and thank you for your support

Theresa Smyth